

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 IO-14 AID-20

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AF-10 DRC-01

/161 W

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R 270735Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5626

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 1097

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LY, MT

SUBJ: LIBYAN-MALTESE RELATIONS

REF: VALLETTA 1083

1. WE HAVE TWO NEW REPORTS BEARING ON STATE OF LIBYAN-MALTESE RELATIONS.

2. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR MASSA BERNUCCI TOLS US THAT FOR LAST WEEK'S QUADRIpartite TALKS AT TECHNICAL LEVEL (REFTel) LIBYANS SENT TWO "BEDOUINS" AS REPRESENTATIVES. THEY ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WERE PRESENT ONLY TO LISTEN AND NOT TO TALK, AND THAT LIBYA WOULD MAKE NO CONTRIBUTION TO ANY JOINT PROJECTS PROPOSED. MEETING DID NOT PRODUCE ANY RESULTS.

2. GOM HAS INTRODUCED NEW BILL IN PARLIAMENT AIMED AT LIMITING OR PROHIBITING PURCHASE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY ON MALTA BY ALIEN NON-RESIDENTS. NATIONALIST MP FELICE, WHO HAS VERY GOOD CONNECTIONS SAID THIS WAS TRIGGERED BY SUBSTANTIAL (CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT LEGAL) PURCHASE OF LAND IN SCENIC AREA BY LIBYAN GROUP,

PRESUMABLY FOR BUILDING HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATIONS. WIFE OF
MALTESE LAWYER WHO HANDLED TRANSACTION CONFIRMED
IT TO US. FELICE SAID WHEN MINTOFF HEARD OF SALE HE SAID
HE DID NOT WANT ANY "LIBYAN VILLAGES" ON MALTA, AND DRAFT BILL
RESULTED.

3. FELICE MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO DETERIORATION
MALTA-LIBYA RELATIONS WHEN IN PARLIAMENT JUNE 24 HE CALLED
ON MINTOFF TO REASSESS HIS POLICIES TOWARD NO LONGER
MONOLITHIC ARAB BLOCK, AND TO VISIT ISRAEL AS DEMONSTRATION
OF HIS DECLARED POLICY OF NEUTRALITY. GETZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, LAW, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974VALLET01097
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740169-1033
From: VALLETTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974066/aaaaaevc.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: VALLETTA 1083
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24 MAR 2003 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LIBYAN-MALTESE RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, LY, MT, (FELICE), (BERNUCCI, MASSA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005